LOUISIANA A.C.L.U. SCORES GARRISON

Says Investigation Into Plot Becoming 'Roman Circus'

3/7/67

By GENE ROBERTS

Special to The New York Times

NEW ORLEANS, March 6—District Attorney Jim Garrison came under sharp criticism from the American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana today as his office subpoenaed a new "witness" in its investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy.

The Civil Liberties Union accused Mr. Garrison, who was not available for comment, of turning his investigation into a "Roman circus" and of attempting to convict people in the press rather than in the courtroom.

Meanwhile, Mr. Garrison's investigators subpoenaed and questioned J. B. Dauenhauer, a bookkeeper for the Cross Country Development Corporation.

Although the district attorney's office would not discuss the reasons for issuing the subpoena, it was known that Mr. Dauenhauer once was an assistant in the International Trade Mart here to Clay L. Shaw.

Mr. Shaw has been arrested but not formally charged by Mr. Garrison's office.

Irving Dymond, Mr. Dauenhauer's attorney, said his client "cooperated to the utmost" during the questioning, which took little more than an hour.

"In my opinion," Mr. Dymond added, "Mr. Dauenhauer has nothing to do with any conspiracy if one existed."

Mr. Dauenhauer was the fifth person subpoenaed by Mr. Garrison's office within the last week. Of the other four, only Mr. Shaw was arrested.

Mr. Garrison has occasionally attacked local reporters for interfering with an investigation that he says will prove that a plot led to the death of President Kennedy, but he has made no effort to conceal subpoenaed witnesses from public view.

He has a private elevator, once used to provide maximum secrecy for grand jury witnesses, which runs from a parking lot in the basement of the Criminal Court Building here into his office. However, the district attorney's office has not put the private elevator at the disposal of any of the five witnesses it has subpoenaed.

In its statement today, the Civil Liberties Union said it had criticized Mr. Garrison last August for attempting to try two defendants "in the press rather than in the courtroom."

"Since August," the Civil Liberties Union said, "Mr. Garrison has not changed his spots."

"Assuming that he [Mr. Garrison] has a genuine case against conspirators," the Liberties Union went on, "his present activity could quite possibly serve to protect those guilty of a conspiracy to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

"Under these circumstances, it appears that Mr. Garrison should be making every effort to make his case as valid as possible, so that the accused conspirators might be brought to justice, rather than giving his role as publicist first priority."